

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

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"STOP CONTACTS" - Bonn Order

During 1959 the West German authorities made increasing efforts to stop contacts between ordinary people in East and West Germany. Statistics made available in East Berlin at the end of the year showed that well over 300 citizens of the GDR were imprisoned by the West German authorities on charges of trying to discuss German affairs during visits to West Germany.

The West German newspaper "Vorwaerts", official organ of the Social Democratic Party, commented on this state of affairs in its issue of December 18th 1959. The newspaper stated:

The Senior Federal Public Prosecutor stated recently that 'eastern contacts are only punishable when they constitute a breach of the law, for instance when they take the form of anti-constitutional or treasonable collection of intelligence information'. This sounds good, but... these words can be stretched like chewing gum.

"It is very difficult for any layman to understand what 'anti-constitutional or treasonable' means. The Düsseldorf public prosecutor's office, for instance, understands these words to include a conversation between East and West Germans about the price of potatoes, and Christmas bonuses in West German factories, if the man asking the question is a member of the East German trade union federation (case 8 Js 10,021/57). The Dortmund public prosecutor's office (in case No. 31 Js 2033/58) regarded it as 'anti-constitutional collection of intelligence information' when a journalist reported on the case of an arrested Communist...

"In order to prevent the two parts of the German population from growing further away from each other, it will be necessary to take all possible steps. The difficulty is to find the proper limits for human, technical and political contacts. All conversations which are not strictly confined to the state of the weather tend to turn political sooner or later.



(from "Sunday Express", London)

Many people have got the idea that in order to prevent infiltration it is necessary to prevent contacts, because on the whole the people of the DGR are more interested in politics than the population of the Federal Republic.

"On April 21st 1959 Hermann Pietrek, member of the Dresden City Council, was arrested on the zonal frontier near Hof. He was released on May 9th, after being given a long ride through the Federal Republic in

a prison van... The aim of his journey was to buy street-cleaning machines in Stuttgart, and in addition to discuss with citizens of Stuttgart the prohibition of atomic weapons. An official of the court in Kronach regarded this as 'endangering the free democratic order of society'...

When the man from Dresden protested, a judge in Bamberg stated officially: 'The mere fact of his protest, in connection with notes found on his person, show clearly the danger to the state represented by his mission.'

"Unfortunately this case is no exception. On October 14th 1959 a four-man delegation from the Stadtrösa District Council in Thuringia was arrested on the way to hold discussions with municipal officials in Kosenheim (West Germany), and to invite them to a visit.

"On May 14th 1959 a Dortmund Court sentenced two trade union officials from Wurzen to seven months imprisonment, because they had intended to invite a member of the West German Civil Servants' Trade Union to an all-German round table talk. The court made the interesting comment that the officials had made the journey believing in good faith that it would help to bring about re-unification, but nevertheless concluded that the two men had thereby supported the anti-constitutional aims of the East German Trade Union Federation.

"On October 13th 1959 a Bamberg Court sentenced two East German trade unionists from Bischofswerda to five months imprisonment because they had travelled to Ludwigsburg to discuss political problems with West German unionists. They were sentenced for being members of a secret organisation, and attempting to collect treasonable intelligence information.

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"Such cases could be cited at great length, without having to refer to those cases concerning real espionage...

"The same thing applies to contacts in the field of the written word. In the past few years the West German authorities have created an apparatus which illegally undertakes censorship, something which is impermissible in the Federal Republic...

"In the Federal Republic, attempts are made to prohibit every form of contact on a higher level than the dispatch of food parcels. But despite all this, the contacts do take place."

The Free Trade Union Federation of the GDR reported on December 21st that during 1959 a total of more than 56,000 West German trade unionists had paid visits to the German Democratic Republic to see for themselves.

Youth Festival Supporters on Trial

Three young West Germans who were active in preparing for the World Youth Festivals in 1953 and 1955 have been on trial in a West German court since November 26th on charges of "endangering the state" and "undermining the existence of the Federal Republic". Guenter Hillmann, one-time executive secretary of the West German youth festival committee, and Klaus Steffen and Walter Fischer, who were both members of the committee's presidium, are being tried on these charges in the Special Political Chamber of the Dortmund Provincial Court.

Prominent figures in both parts of Germany and youth organisations in many countries have already protested against the trial and demanded that the charges be dropped or that all three defendants be acquitted.

The address of Judge Campelmann, who is trying the case, is:

1. Strafkammer des Landgerichts
Dortmund
Kaiser Strasse 34
Dortmund
German Federal Republic.

The trial is expected to last till about January 15th.

SET A NAZI TO CATCH A NAZI

A wave of anti-Semitic outrages swept West Germany in the final days of 1959 and the opening days of 1960. The West German Government responded in the following manner:

1. By declaring that it was opposed to anti-Semitism and every form of neo-nazism.

2. By giving former nazi storm troopers and SS officers the job of investigating the outrages.

The outrages reported up to the time when this issue of GERMAN REPORT went to press consisted mainly of the smearing of swastikas and nazi slogans on synagogues, churches and public buildings, and the dispatch of threatening letters to Jewish citizens.

The wave of public outbreaks began on Christmas Eve when two members of the neo-nazi "German Reich Party" smeared swastikas and slogans on the walls of the newly-built Jewish synagogue in Cologne. The old synagogue was burned down by nazi storm troopers in November 1938.

Overall responsibility for the investigation of this and other crimes lay in the hands of Gerhard Schroeder, Christian Democratic Minister of the Interior, himself a former nazi storm trooper. The man immediately in charge of the investigation of the Cologne outrage is Police Major Karl Klehne, who served as a major in the SS, Hitler's black-uniformed elite troops.

His immediate superior, Police Director Fritz Weber, who directs all the detective police in the province of North-Rhine Westphalia, was also a major in the SS, and worked during the Hitler era in the Reich Security H.Q., which was responsible for the whole concentration camp system and for the liquidation of the Jews of Europe. When Fritz Weber applied for SS membership in 1937 he supplied a written autobiography which stated: "On the day after Hitler's appointment as Chancellor I was transferred to the Political Police, and was head of the SS Auxiliary Police and the Protective Arrest Centre. I was attached for one year to the staff of SS General Daluge." Daluge was hanged in 1946 for war crimes.

A few hours after the desecration of the Cologne Synagogue, two young men, office worker Paul Schoenen, and baker Adolf Strunk, both aged 25, were arrested and confessed to

the crime. If or when they come to trial, there is a considerable chance that they will appear before a court staffed with nazi judges, since no fewer than 25 of the judges and public prosecutors in Cologne Courts have been identified as having worked in nazi special courts or military courts.

The "Times", London, in an editorial entitled "New Birth of an Old Evil" on December 30th 1959, stated:

"In the long run these (anti-Semitic) tendencies can be eliminated only through the education of the German people, and in particular by the removal of those who still hold Nazi beliefs from positions where they can influence the young."

An article from the Bonn correspondent of the "Times" on the same date summing up tendencies in West Germany over the past few years, stated:

"Cases of anti-Semitism have been reported regularly in recent years. They have ranged from the desecration of graves — it has been reported that 176 Jewish graveyards have suffered since 1948 — to the publication of pamphlets, from threats and boycott to complaints against the Nazi regime because it failed to gas all Jews.

"The most distressing aspect of this residual Nazism is the number of schoolteachers involved; one of them, a man named Zind, escaped to Cairo while awaiting trial. A senior public prosecutor, a member of the diplomatic service, two assessors in a Jewish restitution court, and some policemen have also been charged."

Dr Cyril Bibby, Principal of Hull Training College, speaking in London on January 1st, stated: "There are two members of the present West German cabinet who held quite high office under the nazi regime. It has been suggested that a start should be made by weeding out former nazis who are judges; but if one has to start weeding out, the place to start is for the government to start weeding out itself... The only hope lies in the development of pressure from every possible quarter."

Commenting on the case Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany said: "The 30,000 Jews who still live in the German Federal Republic and West Berlin demand that the Federal Government should check both the activities of the right-wing organisations, and also the activities of incriminated persons (former leading

nazis, ed.) who hold positions in political life, the judiciary, education and industry.

"Such crimes cannot surprise us when persons incriminated by their past records appear openly on the political scene and spread nazi slogans, and when such newspapers as the 'Soldatenzeitung', the 'Reichsruf' and the 'Quell', which have definite anti-Semitic and nazi tendencies, are published and can be read by young people."

The Social Democratic newspaper "Neue Rhein Zeitung", published in Dusseldorf, stated in a leading article on December 28th:

"Can any minister deny that he knew that the German Reich Party was a neo-fascist organisation? What did the ministers do? They did nothing. They laughed at those of us who pointed out the danger. Have any of the ministers considered whether the Cologne desecration is the logical result of various political events in the Federal Republic, such as the fact that only the 'left' is attacked, while the danger from the 'right' is always officially played down; or the fact that high nazi judges receive the highest possible pensions, and that the 'Butcher of Warsaw', who destroyed uncounted Polish Jews, is a well-paid mayor and deputy in the Provincial Parliament in Kiel?"

The Social Democratic Press Service stated on December 28th:

"We feel sure that the two criminals will receive just punishment: but that does not solve the problem. The main question we must ask is: Have we really done everything possible to prevent a return of the frightful crimes of the past? Have the roots of nazi crime really been torn out? Has our government, have our universities and our schools, have the parents really informed the younger generation of Germany's shame?"

"We must break through the wall of silence which certain circles have built round their own past, not because they were themselves criminals in the exact meaning of the word, but because they are ashamed of the past."

"What should young people think today when they see that older people, who once paid homage to Hitler, are today in key positions once again?"

"... Is it really necessary that men who wore the ideological mantle for National Socialism should hold key posts in our state today?"

(Comments on the Cologne Synagogue desecration in the Berlin Notebook on the back page of this issue.)

GLASS COW IN INDIA



The "glass cow", a model showing in great detail how a cow's internal organs work, was a central attraction in Democratic Germany's pavilion at the World Agricultural Exhibition in New Delhi which opened in December. A tape-recorded commentary on the cow's anatomy gave explanations in 21 languages, including Hindi.

"The GDR exhibit is of great value to us", said Dr P. S. Deshmukh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Food

and Agriculture (centre), "because it shows clearly the changes brought about in the villages by cooperative farming."

Dr Deshmukh told the visiting GDR officials, "I intend to send one group after another to visit your country and observe what cooperative farming can do; Members of Parliament will be the first ones to whom I shall recommend such a visit."

Contemporary German Books for English Readers

English readers will soon be able to see for themselves what is being written today in the German Democratic Republic, as the result of a new venture launched in East Berlin.

The publishing house Seven Seas Books, of Glinka Strasse 13, Berlin W8, has just published the first of a series of translations of books by contemporary German writers.

The first volume, which appeared at the end of 1959, was "A Bit of Blood", a collection of short stories by Arnold Zweig, who won world fame in the 1920's with his anti-war novel "The Case of Sergeant Grisha". The stories, all of which were written between 1915 and 1933, convey the atmosphere in Germany in the years between World War One and the coming to power of the nazis.

Second book in this series of translations will be "Naked Among Wolves" by Bruno Apitz, German antifascist held for many years in

nazi concentration camps. This novel, a best-seller in the German Democratic Republic in the past few months, tells the horrible story of Buchenwald Concentration Camp as seen through the eyes of a German anti-fascist prisoner. "Naked Among Wolves" is due for publication early in 1960.

Later in the year Seven Seas Books plans the publication of a volume of short stories by various writers on various aspects of life in Democratic Germany since 1945.

Simultaneously Seven Seas Books will continue to publish, in well-printed and well-bound pocket editions, modern books written in English by writers such as Albert Maltz and Ring Lardner, Jr. from the USA; Dymphna Cusack and Wilfred Burchett from Australia; and classics by William Morris, Emily Bronte, Mark Twain, Walt Whitman and others.

Soviet Protest to Bonn Govt.

The Soviet Union protested once again against West German rearmament in a statement made public on December 14th.

The statement, which was addressed to the West German Foreign Ministry, said that the Federal Republic always seemed to become more active in the military field when international tension lessened.

Four main examples of arms build-up were cited:

1. On October 21st the Western European Union consented to the manufacture in West Germany of a number of rocket types which West Germany had pledged itself, under the Paris Agreements, not to produce.

2. The Federal Republic recently signed an agreement with the United States for the delivery of launching equipment for missiles with nuclear warheads and for the training of West German soldiers in the use of nuclear weapons.

3. West Germany had plans to start building large warships and submarines and various types of marine mines, and to equip the new warships with rocket missiles.

4. There have been reports that the Western European Union wants to set up so-called "joint European nuclear forces" which would include West German armed forces.

The Soviet note stated that the West German Government was using its membership in the Western Euro-

pean Union and in NATO to build up its armaments, and using all possible methods to cancel the few armament limitations which were contained in the Paris Agreements.

Recent moves to relax world tension were steps towards lasting peace, the Soviet note said. At such a time, all governments should refrain from any actions which could create new difficulties. West Germany, however, showed no sign of wanting a disarmament agreement at the coming summit meeting.

The West German Government should remember the responsibility it would bear to its own people and the people of other countries if it continued to step up the arms race, the Soviet note said.

Anglo-German Arms Pact "Horrrifying"

Konstantin Fedin, Secretary of the Writers' Union of the U.S.S.R., protested in a letter to "The Times", London, on December 28th against British agreements with West Germany on arms production. Here are some of the main points of his letter:

It seems to me that some politicians still either pretend to believe or naively do believe that the peoples have a short memory. The people's memory is tenacious. Who in Britain, France, the Soviet Union, or in Belgium, Poland and Czechoslovakia has forgotten that the two monstrous world wars were unleashed by German militarism? Nor has that faded from the memory of the people of Germany. The only ones who have forgotten are those who do not wish to recognize this fact or find it a disadvantage to do so.

"Sound sense, however, has recently had its victories, as we have all seen. It became impossible in the end not to yield to the general demand for peace; even on the most warlike banners one could read this autumn a warning word: 'negotiations'. Concessions are inevitable: they are dictated by reason, by common sense.

I was astounded to learn from the Press about Britain's decision to set up industrial cartels with western Germany for the production of armaments. My astonishment was not so much due to the crying discrepancy between the words of the politicians and their deeds; speak of the need for disarmament, while at the same time feverishly increase the production of armaments! It is apparently possible to have two

policies presented as one in a manner resembling symbiosis in nature.

Is it conceivable, however, that somewhere in the Midlands, in Coventry, let us say, a worker on the factory floor would not know that he is helping to arm western Germany? I don't think so. This is evident from the stir produced in Britain by the very first reports of the strange, not to say horrifying, decision to create Anglo-German arms cartels.

I asked myself in genuine bewilderment what had prompted Britain to this hurried move? Why is she so ready obligingly to replace her own generals in N.A.T.O. by west German generals? Why must she speed help to the Bundeswehr in the production of guided missiles with nuclear warheads?

And this right on the eve of negotiations on disarmament? At a moment of heartfelt approval of the idea of negotiations instead of threats of force? Yes, at this very moment. Alas, so much attention to warheads charged with explosive and so little to human heads charged with the brain of man.

I have faith in the common sense of the talented and hard-working British people who are actively fighting for peace and who do not want to, and cannot, agree meekly and without protest to a decision which is unacceptable and, perhaps, even fatal to Britain and the whole cause of peace. I passionately want to believe that peace will overcome war, will drive it back with the help of things remembered and of good sense.

Win a New Reader

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Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8, Germany

We shall be pleased to mail sample copies of the paper to him or her.

Name

Address

WHY THEY MOVE TO DEMOCRATIC GERMANY

People are moving from West Germany to the GDR at the rate of 70,000 per year. They come for a large variety of reasons — loss of jobs, opposition to military conscription, anger at the increasing re-nazification. Some come because they are compelled by persecution to leave West Germany; the alternative is to go hungry or even go to jail. Here are two examples of such cases — a miner and a school teacher.

A Miner Moves . . .

In September this year, a monthly magazine in East Berlin published an article comparing the lives of a miner in the German Democratic Republic with one in the crisis-struck Ruhr coal area in West Germany. The man from the Ruhr they chose to interview was Adolf Koenig — 38 years old, father of three children, descendant of Ruhr coal miners for many generations and an active member of his mine council.

There was nothing unusual about all this — and the story he told the reporter about conditions in the mines was the same story all the miners on the Ruhr could have told him; the difference was that he was willing to have his name and picture published as well.

He came to regret this very soon. The pit management had been waiting to find an excuse to sack him for years — he was indeed too active a member of the pit council and much too outspoken. Here was their chance. He was accused of giving the magazine reports which were slanderous and defamatory towards the management — and fired on the spot. A guard was even assigned to accompany him to the mine entrance, and he was forbidden ever again to trespass on its territory — where he had worked for years.

The pit management tacked the article on their bulletin board — carefully omitting the section which dealt with miners' life in the German Democratic Republic. But the miners did not find anything slanderous in Adolf Koenig's words about their mine — what he had told the reporter about the numerous accidents, the sneaky methods used by the management to escape paying proper compensation, the whole at-

mosphere of fear and insecurity which was now typical of the Ruhr area — all this was really even worse than he had described it to the East Berlin reporter.

But this very same fear and insecurity caused the members of the pit council to refrain from helping Koenig keep his job, especially since the pit manager who had fired him sat in on the meeting (a right guaranteed him by West German law), where he kept a sharp and threatening eye on everyone. After some prodding, he also admitted that the Bureau for Protection of the Constitution was involved in this case, too.

Koenig then went to the central office of the Miners' Union in his town of Wanne-Eickel, but was told that this was a private political matter which he would have to fight out for himself. The union official, like the management, also held against him that he had twice attended conferences of trade unionists in East Berlin.

He then went to collect his unemployment insurance. This

brought a new disappointment — in cases like his he would have to wait four weeks. His back was now against the wall, he knew, for he would never get another job in a Ruhr mine again, and he might also expect a knock on his door any day now from the political police or the Bureau for Protection of the Constitution.

That is why Adolf Koenig made his difficult decision to leave the town where he had lived for so many years, where he was respected by his fellow-workers and neighbours, where his wife was praised by the shop-keepers for her prompt payment and his daughter by the local priest, whom she assisted in the distribution of church newspapers. He used what money he could gather from a hurried sale of his furniture and came across the border with his wife and three children to the GDR.

Today the Koenig family has already settled into a pleasant new flat, and Adolf Koenig has worked his first few shifts in the coal mines of the Zwickau-Oelsnitz area.

. . . & a Teacher Comes East

Dr Ernst Abels, 48, has taught history and modern languages to secondary school children since 1934. He was never in any party or movement — he and his wife are both Roman Catholics. He has, however, opinions of his own and is quite outspoken about them.

This first caused difficulties in 1956, when men from the West German "Bureau for Protection of the Constitution" asked his headmaster about him and tried to have him sacked. Back in 1956 the headmaster felt that he could afford to ignore such threats.

Then in 1958, at another school in the town of Moenchengladbach, his troubles began again. They started seemingly innocently — with a Christmas quiz contest for the pupils, sent out to all the schools. The quiz questions proved, however, to be less innocent. "What are the names of Germany's lost provinces?" and "Is there any democracy in the Soviet Occupation Zone (the German De-

mocratic Republic, — ed.)?" The tip as to how to answer these questions was provided by the name of the organisation which sent out the quiz — the Ministry for All-German Questions in Bonn.

Dr Abels felt that such quiz questions were an attempt to exert political influence on his pupils — he neglected both the quiz and an answering letter until it was too late.

He soon learnt that it was not so voluntary as it had seemed. His was the only class which had not responded, and he was soon called to the headmaster's office. Here he was told that certain officials had demanded his dismissal — the headmaster informed him confidentially that the 'certain officials' were from the Bureau for Protection of the Constitution. Before the deadline for his dismissal, however, he found another job — with the help of the very good letter of reference which the school gave him.

So he started all over again — since he had moved from North Rhine-Westphalia to the province of Lower Saxony, he thought he would be left in peace. He was — from April until July, when he was again dismissed from his post. Again the Bureau for Protection of the Constitution was behind the dismissal. This time he decided to complain directly to the Bureau about this harassment. When he arrived at their offices in Düsseldorf, he was given no chance to complain. Instead he was escorted to Police Headquarters and subjected to a long cross-examination about his beliefs, his

friends and his relatives. His home was also searched soon after; his wife was cross-examined. The Bureau for Protection of the Constitution told him that they would tell him the results of the examination within six months; they would not, however, help him to regain his job.

While he was sitting out the last few days of the summer holidays, wondering what to do in order to find a job again, he was summoned by the local criminal police. They told him that they must examine him all over again, that it would take two days, and that he should give them his pass and identification

papers beforehand, "so that he would not do anything he might later regret".

Dr Abels felt that this was a clear enough indication of what his future would hold. He slipped away at the first opportunity and took the train towards the east. He soon arrived in the German Democratic Republic, carrying nothing but his briefcase.

Dr Abels is now teaching modern languages at a university in Democratic Germany, his wife has joined him here, and he is certain that he will not regret his decision.

French Paper Cites SS Threat

Old nazis should be promoted to leading police positions, according to a circular letter signed by Gerhard Schroeder, West German Minister of the Interior, the Paris newspaper "La Tribune des Nations" stated on December 18th. Schroeder was formerly a nazi storm trooper.

The article by French journalist Georges Bertin stated:

"Minister Schroeder has drafted an interesting circular letter dealing with the expansion of the police force in the (West) German Federal Republic. This circular letter has been sent to the local police departments. The letter states that the task of 'recreating' national greatness requires that leading positions in all fields should be taken over by 'reliable, firm, resolute people who have proved themselves and are faithful to Germany's traditional principles'.

"The history of the post-war years, the circular letter continues, shows that German youth does not come up to these standards. They are unreliable and easily influenced by the propaganda of social-democratic and 'similar' groups. Their critical evaluation of the past thirty years of German history does not even spare Chancellor Adenauer.

"In his letter Minister Schroeder demands that the police force should be expanded by recruiting Germans who have 'genuine national consciousness', who are completely committed to the task of reunifying Germany, who 'have not, because of the past humiliating defeats, lost their faith in Germany's great future' and who have maintained their faith in the leadership of Europe which they will one day assume.

"The circular letter closes with words which will appear full of pathos to a French reader, but which are packed with meaning: it specif-

cally mentions the role which should be played in this connection by the SS, the nazi Storm Troops and the SS counter intelligence service. It recommends that their cooperation should not be refused — which means in reality that they should be found and recruited.

"These instructions from Minister Schroeder have been carried out with the usual punctiliousness of German administration. The 'Frankfurter Rundschau' recently found that al-

most all key positions in the detective police in North Rhine-Westphalia are occupied by former members of the SS and the Gestapo. As a result of Minister Schroeder's circular letter, responsible police leadership positions in cities like Aachen, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Gelsenkirchen, Dortmund, etc. have been given to old members of the SS such as one-time SS Major Karl Kuhne, SS Major Maenke and others. Any comment would be superfluous."

E. German in Canada Wants Out

A provincial newspaper in Democratic Germany recently reprinted a letter received in Halle from Canada. The letter was written by a German woman who left Democratic Germany some time ago to emigrate to Canada with her family.

The letter, which was photostated on November 11th in the local newspaper "Freiheit" in Halle, stated:

"Georg has been out of work again for three weeks, and starts work again next week. He is pretty run down with all this unemployment. We should like to know when it is going to change: probably never.

"I am fed up with this life, things are better in the East Zone (GDR). You won't credit it, but nobody believes me here when I tell them that there is no unemployment in the East Zone, and that there is more security in old age.

"Georg swore at me: he said I shouldn't say anything, people here don't know anything, they only believe what the papers say."

(For possibly sceptical readers it should be pointed out that the publication of this letter in an East German paper proves very conclu-

sively that there really is no unemployment in Democratic Germany: otherwise the newspaper would just be making itself look silly.)

British Exhibit Official at Leipzig

British industry will have an official collective exhibit for the first time since the war at the Leipzig Fair in March 1960. The exhibit will be sponsored by the Federation of British Industries, the regular trade partner of the German Democratic Republic in Britain.

The industrial group, with almost 200 companies exhibiting their products at the famous trade fair, will sponsor a special information centre to supply information about British industry to prospective buyers from the socialist countries.

Among the firms with definite plans to exhibit at Leipzig this spring are the Imperial Chemical Industries, the Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds steel company and many other important manufacturing companies.

The Church in GDR

By Percy Barnard

I was invited, with other members of my family, by some friends in East Germany to spend a holiday there during the Autumn Fair at Leipzig. Having been a local preacher for forty-three years, and being particularly interested in the work of the Church, in education, and in old people's welfare, I gladly accepted this opportunity to study conditions for myself. Much of what I saw is, I feel, of importance to Christians.

Unfortunately I did not find the Methodist Church until a few days before leaving Leipzig. I did finally meet the minister, the Rev. G. Ringles, and looked over the new church built in 1950 to replace the one destroyed in the war.

I felt it was a great privilege to be perhaps the first Englishman to stand in this church. I was asked to convey greetings to the Methodists in Great Britain. This I gladly do.

I attended three church services during my stay, but will only mention one. On the third Sunday I was in the village of Kipsdorf, near the Czechoslovak border. I followed the sound of church bells and found the Lutheran church in the midst of a pine wood.

I enjoyed this service, perhaps, most of all. It was unannounced, and the beauty of the singing of the large congregation, and the deep feeling of reverence, made it a most moving experience.

Now, about the relationship between Church and State. I met many people, lay and ministerial, who freely answered my questions.

The State has rebuilt many churches and assists in maintaining them. There are theological faculties in all six universities in East Germany. The theological students, like all others, receive their training free, and the vast majority are given a maintenance allowance. Yet it is true that there is a conflict between Church and State.

The main issue, as far as I could see, following many discussions with both sides, is one that has arisen many times in the history of the Church. It is concerned with the border line between the Church's spiritual and temporal authority. I am not qualified to pass judgement on the issues involved. What is clear is that no one is being persecuted for their religious opinions.

One morning we went to see one of the many day nurseries. One hundred and twenty children be-

tween the ages of three and six are cared for at this nursery. It is open from 6.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. and has a fully trained staff. Children arrive at different times according to family circumstances, and are provided with breakfast, dinner, and tea at a small weekly cost. All children have three-quarters of a pint of fresh milk daily. The children's health seems to be regarded as of paramount importance. Infants are inoculated against polio, whooping cough, and tuberculosis, and all children are medically examined three times a year.

A close relationship exists between the nursery staff and parents. There is a Parents' Association which, among other things, gives practical help to mothers in need.

The equipment we saw was modern and well designed. The children are divided into groups of twenty, and at meals as at other times the older children are encouraged to help the younger ones. Our general impression was that the children were natural and happy.

The Warden was interested to know that I was associated with the same kind of work in Britain, and that another member of our party was a graduate teacher.

I have space to mention only one question which I put to her: "Do you give any religious instruction?" The answer was "No". It seems that it is felt in East Germany—as, for example, in America—that the responsibility for religious education rests with Church and parents.

Various types of school were visited by members of our party—I did not go to all. Comparing notes, we found that the same things had impressed us everywhere. One was the constant endeavour we saw to link school work with the real experiences of life. The other was the emphasis on mutual help, and the almost complete elimination of the competitive spirit as we know it. The standard of education which we saw was uniformly high, and outstandingly so in science subjects.

Our visit to a home for old people we shall long remember. Seven hundred elderly folk live in this recently constructed group of buildings. An extension is now nearly completed which will accommodate an additional five hundred. It has cost the equivalent of half a million pounds.

There is a large hall where concerts and plays are presented and lectures and discussions held. These old people are regarded as still being able to enjoy a full life themselves and being capable of making a positive contribution to the life of the community. They are largely self-governing; for example, they have themselves chosen many of the amenities to be included in the new building. Among them are a bowling alley, billiards room, open air cafe and cinema, and ladies' and gentlemen's hairdressers. We saw a comfortable lounge, spacious dining rooms, well equipped kitchens, and a model surgery and hospital.

But despite the provision of many communal amenities, the old people's sense of continuity and "home" is maintained. All who wish may bring their own furniture with them, and each room has a gas ring on which they can make tea and cook light meals for themselves and their friends.

We had conversations with many residents and saw their rooms. In one was a large oil painting of the boy Jesus, asking questions in the Temple. The owners, an old couple, both over eighty, are, we were told, deeply religious and are regular churchgoers.

I asked the old man whether the minister came to see him and his wife, and he replied that ministers of different denominations regularly visited their own people in the Home.

(Reprinted from the "Methodist Observer" London, October 1959.)

GDR Grows Fast

Industrial production in the German Democratic Republic is expanding more than four times as fast as in the United States, and more than eight times as fast as Britain. This was shown by provisional statistics on industrial growth published in Berlin at the end of 1959.

These figures demonstrated that in the past year, industrial production in the GDR grew by well over 12 percent, compared to the average US figure of 3 percent, and the British figure of 1.5 percent. This was one of the highest rates of growth in the world, outpaced only by countries like China and North Korea where industrial production was previously at a low level.

The increase in industrial production has been directly reflected by an all-round rise in the standard of living: goods turnover in the shops grew by 10 percent in volume in 1959, the provisional figures showed.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

You will have read with disgust the news that Christmas Eve two young West Germans smeared swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on the walls of the newly-built synagogue in Cologne, West Germany. West German officials immediately issued a flood of statements stating that the young men, who were quickly arrested, were "outsiders" and not representative of West Germany today.

Easy out

But they cannot evade responsibility as easily as that. It is true that anti-Semitism is not a precept of official policy in West Germany today. But it is also true that the West German government tolerates a flood of anti-Semitic literature, including pamphlets which set out to demonstrate that stories about gas-chambers during the Nazi era are all inventions; that it tolerates big rallies of former SS men, and it has installed former SS officers in positions of command in the West German Wehrmacht; that most West German school books skate lightly over the question of Nazi persecution of the Jews; that dozens of judges who passed sentences under the anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws are back in office; and that Dr Hans Globke, the Nazi official who wrote the official legal commentary to the Nuremberg Laws for Hitler is today Chancellor Adenauer's State Secretary and closest confidant.

The young men who committed the Cologne outrage are 25 years old. They were only 11 when the Nazi regime was smashed, which means that they received their racist indoctrination in the post-war years. I hope that this deed has awakened some of the well-meaning but woolly-minded West German liberals who have been saying for years: "It can't happen here again."

And there was something significant about the wording of most of the official West German announcements of regret. They condemned the outrage, to be sure, but mainly because it "damaged the reputation of the German Federal Republic in the eyes of the world". Adenauer doesn't mind employing a veteran anti-Semite as his aide, but he does mind acts which hit the headlines outside West Germany.

Hush Money

Congratulations to a few hundred survivors of the slave-labourer pens in the war-time factories of Alfred

Krupp, the cannon king, who are now going to get about £450 each as compensation for their sufferings during the Second World War. At first sight the fact that the huge firm of Krupps has decided to make some payment to a few of its victims would appear to be a sign that even arms profiteers have consciences: but a little consideration shows up the compensation payment in a more sinister light. It could, in fact, be termed hush money.

The facts of the case are as follows: at the Nuremberg war crimes trial of the firm of Krupp, which ended on July 31st 1948, official documents were produced to show that during World War Two the various Krupp plants employed a total of over 97,000 slave workers — 69,898 forced labourers imported from the occupied countries of Europe, 23,076 prisoners of war, and 4,978 concentration camp prisoners. These slaves ranged from children of six to men of eighty: they were starved, whipped, and killed.

The Jewish slave labourers were in a small minority: according to Nazi principles slave labour was too good for Jews, who should be consigned to the gas chambers as soon as possible. But it is only to the few hundred surviving Jewish slave labourers that the firm of Krupp is now going to pay compensation. Herr Krupp wants to whitewash himself. Don't let him fool you.

Fascinating Fake

I have always been fascinated by the sillier stories faked up by various political warfare agencies, so I pricked up my ears when the "case of the poisoned salt-cellar" came to light in the middle of December.

You probably read about it: Erik Hazelhoff, European director of an outfit calling itself "Radio Free Europe" announced with a suitable roll of drums on December 16th that "red agents" had put poison in the salt cellars at the cafeteria maintained by this mysterious radio station at Munich, West Germany.

At first many newspapers in the western world apparently fell for the story, and gave it quite a lot of space. But some of the newsmen on the spot were not so convinced, and finally, under cross-examination by reporters, Mr Hazelhoff said there had been enough in the salt-cellar "to make anybody ill if they ate the whole contents of one salt-cellar".

Just you try swallowing the contents of one salt cellar, without any "red" poison, and see whether it makes you ill.

I am a little disappointed in Radio Free Europe: I would have expected them to have more efficient liars on their staff. But the people who faked up the salt cellar story are probably satisfied with its success just the same. After all, hundreds of newspapers all over the western world gave prominence to the original scare story, and only a handful printed the final admission that there had been only slight traces of poison, if in fact there had been any at all.

Sinister

But the whole story reminds us of the existence of sinister organisations such as this Radio Free Europe, allegedly a private American organisation with no governmental connections. Throughout the 24 hours this radio pours out a flood of cold war propaganda in the languages of eastern Europe from West German soil, yet no government admits responsibility for its actions. The American government says that the radio is purely private, and not under their control, and the West German government washes its hands in innocence, saying that it is all an American affair. If it was a little hole-in-the-corner outfit these protestations of innocence might be almost believable: but the salt-cellar story brought to light the fact that no fewer than 1200 employees eat in the cafeteria of Radio Free Europe. If some private person is supporting these 1200 men and women as a hobby, then he must be, to put it mildly, rather well-to-do.

Bull

As far as I know, there is no newspaper or magazine in the Socialist countries with a column equivalent to the "This England" column in the London "New Statesman", or the "They Say" column in the London "Observer" which reproduce examples of the sometimes clotted thinking of public speakers and others. This is a pity, for I should like to contribute a fine glimpse of the obvious given in a speech by Karl Mewis, Secretary of the Rostock District Committee of the Socialist Unity Party: "Milk comes from the cow, and not from cattle in general."